

Title: Funa Yurei

Author: Junkichi

---

It is said that when a boat puts out to sea on New Year's Eve, it will draw the attention of the Funa Yurei. The Funa Yurei are the ghosts of those who have drowned and haunt the cold darkness at the bottom of the sea. The centuries have made them bitter and angry with the living. When a ship passes, they still the wind and waters so the ship may not escape.

Then they float up to the surface and take a more human appearance, with gaunt pale faces and wearing clothing the color of snow. They will stretch a hand up through the waves and ask "Lend us a spoon. Please lend us a spoon."

Those who give the ghosts a spoon are very unfortunate. The single spoon will divide and split into hundreds, and the Funa Yurei will begin to ladle water into the boat until it sinks. The sailors who try to swim to safety are dragged down to join the spirits. A wise captain will always carry a spoon with holes drilled in it so that the ghosts are unable to sink the ship.

Sometimes the ghosts are drawn to whatever caused their ship to sink. To see the Funa Yurei is a very

poor omen indeed.